



UNITED NATIONS CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID

No. 3/1990

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NEWS DIGEST*

1. ACTION BY UNITED NATIONS ORGANS AND AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION ON THE DAY OF NAMIBIA'S INDEPENDENCE

The United Nations observed the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 1990. The annual observance commemorates the slaying in Sharpeville, South Africa, on 21 March 1960 of 69 unarmed demonstrators by South African Police.

This year the day coincided with the Independence of Namibia.

The solemn meeting organized by the Special Committee against Apartheid heard 10 speakers including messages from the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly and a statement by the President of the Security Council.

Opening the meeting, the Acting Chairman of the Special Committee, H.E. Ambassador Guennadi Oudovenko (Ukraine) recalling the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre, said that it was important to remember its victims. Their sacrifice in the struggle

against apartheid was not in vain. Namibia's Independence, being celebrated today, stood as an example of the will and commitment of its people to liberate themselves. It was an historic victory and set a sign of hope for the people of South Africa that their aspiration for a free, non-racial and democratic society would materialize soon, he said.

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Citing recent political developments, he said "hope and the winds of change" had finally reached South Africa. The de Klerk Government had shown some signs of realism. However, at a meeting held on 9 March 1990, (see news item below) the Special Committee had reviewed the situation in South Africa and had come to the conclusion that it was entirely premature for any change of policy by the International community. The relaxation of sanctions would undermine the process towards change in South Africa. Sanctions remained the most effective and peaceful weapons to the International community for the elimination of apartheid.

"This is not the time to relax the pressure," he said. "On the contrary, as never before, it is imperative to maintain and sustain concerted pressure."

The President of the Security Council, Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal (Democratic Yemen), in his statement said the commemoration of the International Day took on special importance this year as it coincided with Namibia's Independence. The Security Council had repeatedly called for the total elimination of apartheid and the establishment of a free, democratic, non-racial society in South Africa with Universal suffrage. He hoped that "the favourable international political climate and the positive developments in South Africa would lead to the abolition of apartheid".

The Secretary-General Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar in his message read by Mr. Sotirios Mousouris, Assistant Secretary-General for the Centre against Apartheid said, "few practices were more repugnant to the values cherished by civilized man than those of racial discrimination. The United Nations, since its inception, had contributed consistently to the elimination of such practices."

Citing the release of Nelson Mandela and other South African political prisoners, the Secretary-General said "while these developments had been welcomed, more remained to be done to enable South Africa to move towards the establishment of a non-racial society where people of all races could be assured of equal rights under the law."

H.E. Major-General Joseph N. Garba (Nigeria), President of the General Assembly, in a message read on his behalf by H.E. Mr. Lionel Alexander Hurst (Antigua and Barbuda), a Vice-President of the General Assembly, said that "until apartheid was eliminated, the international community would maintain and sustain concerted and effective pressure on Pretoria as well as provide assistance and support for the oppressed people there, as agreed in the Declaration of the Assembly's special session on apartheid."

H.E. Mr. Tom Obaleh Kargbo (Sierra Leone), Chairman of the Special Committee on Decolonization, said that the tragedy of Sharpeville had spurred determination and strengthened resolve to eliminate the scourges of racism and racial discrimination. Today, 30 years later, that determination had paid sizeable returns. Important developments were taking place in South Africa which would lead to an early and total eradication of all racial laws, as well as the immediate lifting of all political restrictions.

"The total eradication of apartheid is within reach," he said, adding "the Special Committee of 24 and the Special Committee against Apartheid whose common commitment was to defend the inalienable right of peoples everywhere to self-determination and freedom, must remain vigilant."

H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson of Sweden and Chairman of the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa paid tribute to the victims of

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Sharpeville massacre for their supreme sacrifice. He also applauded Namibia on its independence, after decades of occupation.

Speaking about recent developments in South Africa, Ambassador Eliasson said "there was growing hope that, at last, a genuine change could be achieved by peaceful means. The South African Government had recognized the need for a negotiated settlement by lifting the ban on political organizations and by the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners. It had, however, not shown that it was ready to abolish the underpinnings of the apartheid system". He said South Africa had to take the remaining steps before negotiations to create a democratic, non-racist and united South Africa could begin. Those measures were spelled out in the Declaration adopted by consensus at last year's special session on apartheid.

Drawing the attention of the International community to the needs of the victims of the policy of racial discrimination in South Africa, Ambassador Eliasson said that "while the main focus of the International community was on ways to bring about a political settlement in South Africa, the significance of humanitarian assistance to the victims of apartheid should not be underestimated. Generous contributions should be given to sustain the humanitarian, legal and relief assistance provided by the Trust Fund for South Africa."

Mr. Jan Martenson, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Head of the Centre for Human Rights, speaking in his capacity as Co-ordinator for activities related to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination said "the day of racial supremacy and prejudice appeared to be coming to a close. The recent steps taken by the South African Government had encouraged hopes for the dismantling of apartheid and its replacement with a non-racist, democratic State."

He, however, added that as the violation of human rights and fundamental freedom still occurred in various areas of the world, including South Africa, there was a need for improved anti-racism collaboration with the academic community, the media and non-governmental organizations as well as a need for more effective use of communication, information and education.

Others who joined the Special Committee against Apartheid in its solemn observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination were H.E. Mr. George Lamptey (Ghana), Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Mr. Zuhdi Labib Terzi, Permanent Observer for Palestine, Mr. Nathaniel Masemola, of the African National Congress (ANC) and Mr. Count Pietersen, of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC).

ANTI-APARTHEID COMMITTEE CALLS FOR
CONTINUED SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA
AND CONDEMNS COLLABORATION BETWEEN ISRAEL
AND SOUTH AFRICA

The Special Committee against Apartheid which held its first substantive meeting for the year 1990 on 9 March 1990 heard statements urging continuation of sanctions against South Africa. The collaboration between South Africa and Israel in the nuclear and military fields also came under severe condemnation during the meeting.

Opening the session, the Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee, H.E. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukraine) said that since the adoption by the General Assembly's special session of the Declaration on measures to create a favourable climate for negotiations towards early eradication of apartheid, several positive developments had taken place.

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"But it was premature," he said, "to change the policy of the international community towards the apartheid régime. The lifting of sanctions would undermine the process towards democratic change in that country."

The representative of Ghana, H.E. Mr. James Victor Gbeho said that since 1987 when the Israeli Parliament had confirmed that country's collaboration with South Africa, there had been evidence of a continuing and more vigorous and expanding relationship between the two countries. Israel had helped South Africa manufacture military aircraft, and the two were also collaborating in the economic and trade sectors.

The Government of Ghana deplored any attempt to relax the current pressure on South Africa and unreservedly condemned any collaboration with that régime.

Mr. Victor Mashabela an observer from the African National Congress (ANC) said that while his organization was jubilant over the recent release of its leader, Nelson Mandela, from prison, there were more than 2000 other political prisoners still incarcerated.

Calling the Pretoria régime's definition of political prisoners as one of the several obstacles to the creation of a climate conducive to negotiations, Mr. Mashabela pointed out that apartheid still remained the order of the day in South Africa. His organization, therefore, had no choice but to fight for its eradication. The international community must intensify its efforts in that direction, he urged.

While condemning the British Government for lifting sanctions against South Africa, he called on Hungary to reverse its new collaboration with the Pretoria régime.

He also called on Israel to rethink its policy of collaboration with the régime.

The observer of Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC) Mr. Count Pietersen said the foundations of apartheid, oppression and racism still remained, despite the release of leaders of the liberation movements. Therefore, the struggle for the liquidation of apartheid must continue. The international community must continue its support for the liberation movements pending the creation of a non-racial democratic South Africa.

H.E. Mr. James Victor Gbeho (Ghana) wanted the Special Committee against Apartheid to meet more frequently so as to ensure implementation of the measures contained in the Declaration of the special session and to offer leadership to the United Nations. He was reassured that the apartheid régime had acknowledged that negotiation was the key to peace and justice.

The measures which had been taken so far to improve the situation were, however, limited and fell short of those prescribed as necessary for meaningful negotiations.

He said that the recent events in South Africa suggested that the apartheid régime was feeling the effects of the isolation and the sanctions imposed on it. It would be suicidal to relax the pressure against South Africa now.

Others who spoke on the situation in South Africa were the representatives of Algeria, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Nigeria, Syria, the Ukraine SSR and Zimbabwe.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA

The Special Committee against Apartheid at its meeting on 9 March 1990 also considered the issue of relationship between Israel and South Africa.

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The Vice-Chairman H.E. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukraine) opening the discussion said the issue of the collaboration, especially in the military and nuclear fields, between the régimes of South Africa and Israel was a matter of concern not only to the Special Committee, but to many Governments, Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

Mr. Mohammad Najdat Shaheed of Syria tracing the history of the relationship between the two states said that the "alliance binding the two was a product of the structural similarity of the two racist régimes. They both disregarded International law, as well as the rights of their victims. They were both affected by International and regional isolation which resulted from their actions."

Giving details of the commercial and economic agreements that had been concluded between the two states Mr. Shaheed said "the Zionist régime had tried to mislead world opinion by repeatedly saying it had ended its relationship with South Africa. Yet the total trade between the two States had increased yearly."

He went on to say that "there was evidence that the special relations between the two in the military field had continued in spite of attempts to hide them." He then described the instances of military co-operation between the two states, including the export of raw materials from the racist régime of South Africa to the "Zionist entity", the export of technological assistance to the racist régime, the license to manufacture the Israeli Uzi machine gun in South Africa, and the sharing of intelligence and of medical personnel in war zones.

Pointing out to the substantial co-operation in the area of missile production the representative of Syria mentioned that a missile test area had been set up near Pretoria.

As to co-operation in the nuclear field, he said that "the racist régime in South Africa provided Israel with uranium. The international media had uncovered the secrets of the two entities in that field. Both States refused to ratify the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and had refused to subject their installations to international control - a cause for international concern."

Saying that more than resolutions of condemnation was called for, the representative of Syria wanted that there should be decisive international action."

The representative of Ghana, H.E. Mr. James Victor Gbeho said that since 1987 when the Israeli Parliament had confirmed that country's collaboration with South Africa, there had been evidence of a continuing and more vigorous and expanding relationship between the two countries. Israel had helped South Africa manufacture military aircraft, and the two were also collaborating in the economic and trade sectors.

The Government of Ghana deplored any attempt to relax the current pressure on South Africa and unreservedly condemned any collaboration with that régime.

PUBLIC INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

As part of the observance of 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a register opened at United Nations Headquarters on 19 March for contributions from non-governmental organizations and the general public to the United Nations trust funds and programmes for southern Africa. The register would remain open till 20 April 1990.

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The register located in the Non-Governmental Organizations Resource Centre in the north-west corner of the Secretariat lobby, would remain open during this period from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On 19 April, the Secretary-General would accept contributions and pledges from Member States to these southern Africa trust funds and programmes.

Contributions are for the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern African, the United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid, the United Nations Fund for Namibia, and through it, for the United Nations Institute for Namibia and the Nationhood Programme for Namibia.

After 20 April, the contributions to these funds and programme should be made by mail. Cheques should be made out indicating the name of the fund or programme and mailed to: Treasurer of the United Nations, Room S-2770A, United Nations, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Trust Fund for South Africa

The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, established by the General Assembly under a 1965 resolution, is made up of voluntary contributions from States, organizations, Governments of host countries of refugees from South Africa and other bodies, and issued mainly for:

- legal assistance to persons persecuted under repressive and discriminatory legislation of South Africa;

- relief to such persons and their dependents;

- education of such persons and their dependents; and

- relief for refugees from South Africa.

A Committee of Trustees decides on the use of the Fund and acts to promote contributions to it, as well as co-operation and co-ordination in the activities of voluntary organizations. The Committee is composed of representatives of Chile, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan and Sweden.

The Committee of Trustees has stressed the continued needs for humanitarian assistance and appealed for further contributions to the Trust Fund. In spite of recent important and positive developments in southern Africa as a whole, including South Africa, the Committee of Trustees feels that there would be a continued substantial need for the Trust Fund to pursue its activities under the terms of its mandate. Moreover, the Committee encourages direct contributions by Governments and other donors to the voluntary organizations concerned with legal, humanitarian and other assistance to the victims of apartheid. No grants from the Trust Fund are made to individuals.

Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa

The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa was established in 1967 by consolidating earlier special programmes to assist persons from Namibia, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia (today Zimbabwe) and Territories under Portuguese administration in Africa. Since the accession to independence of the Territories formerly under Portuguese administration in Africa and Zimbabwe, the Programme has granted scholarships only to inhabitants of Namibia and South Africa. Following the independence of Namibia, new scholarships to Namibians would be granted only for a transitional period in consultation with the Government of Namibia.

The Programme is financed from a Trust Fund made up of voluntary contributions by States, organizations and individuals. It

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Is administered by the Secretary-General in consultation with an Advisory Committee set up in 1969. The Advisory Committee is composed of representatives of Byelorussia, Canada, Denmark, India, Japan, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway, the United States, the United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

From the beginning of 1968 through 31 August 1989, voluntary contributions from Governments and other donors to the Programme, as well as subventions from the budget of the United Nations, amounted to \$62,082,326. In addition, 30 States have offered assistance in the form of scholarships for training in their own countries.

The General Assembly, recognizing the need at this critical juncture in southern Africa to provide educational opportunities and counselling to a greater number of students refugees in a wide variety of professional, cultural and linguistic disciplines, as well as opportunities for vocational and technical training and for advance studies at graduate and post-graduate level, appealed to all States, institutions, organizations and individuals to offer greater financial and other support to the Programme in order to enable it to better respond to the ever-increasing need for educational opportunities abroad. In view of the recent developments in southern Africa, particular stress has been placed on the importance of manpower education and training for the post-apartheid South Africa and the Independent Namibia.

During the academic year 1988/1989, 1,208 students held scholarships granted under the Programme of whom 442 were Namibians and 766 South Africans. During the same period, students under the Programme were studying in Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Congo, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Federal Republic of Germany, Ghana,

Grenada, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Swaziland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Programme co-operates closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the specialized agencies of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees. Close liaison is also maintained with other international agencies providing scholarships to persons from the countries concerned, such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, the World University Service, the African-American Institute and the International Institute of Education.

Fund for Namibia

The United Nations Fund for Namibia was established in accordance with a 1970 General Assembly resolution to provide assistance to Namibians and to finance a comprehensive educational and training programme for them, with particular regard to their future administrative responsibilities in an independent Namibia. The independence of Namibia would not bring to an immediate end the entire range of activities of the Fund, especially not those related to education and training. They would continue for the present, pending any decision that the General Assembly may adopt for the Namibia-related funds in the light of Namibia's independence. In order to ensure that the ongoing activities were carried on and phased out with minimal disruption, the Fund for Namibia needed to maintain adequate funding for the current year.

One of the major projects of the Fund is the financing of the United Nations Institute for Namibia, established by the General Assembly in 1974 for research,

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training, planning and related activities. The Institute is located at Lusaka (Zambia).

In addition, the Assembly decided in 1976 to launch the Nationhood Programme, a comprehensive programme within the United Nations system designed to provide assistance during the period of the struggle for Independence, as well as the initial years of Independence.

Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid

The United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid was established in 1975. It is designed to reinforce United Nations information activities in making world public opinion more aware of United Nations efforts towards the elimination of apartheid. Generous contributions to the Trust Fund would enable the United Nations to better discharge its mandate of disseminating information on the international campaign against apartheid, particularly in view of the United Nations Declaration on South Africa adopted by consensus last December at the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly.

STATES PARTIES TO INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
AGAINST APARTHEID IN SPORTS ELECT NEW
CHAIRMAN AND OTHER OFFICIALS

The States Parties to the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports, at its first meeting of 1990, elected H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations as the new Chairman (a biographical note of H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Gambari appeared in the February 1990 issue of the News Digest).

Elected at the same meeting as Vice-Chairman were H.E. Mr. Herbert Samuel Walker (Jamaica), H.E. Ambassador Sedfrey Ordonez (Philippines) and H.E. Mr. Guennadi I. Oudovenko (Ukraine).

In an opening statement, the new Chairman said he was encouraged with recent developments in South Africa, particularly the unbanning of political groups and the release of Nelson Mandela and some political prisoners.

However, he continued, much more needed to be done to create a healthy atmosphere for genuine negotiations for the elimination of apartheid such as the release of all political prisoners, the lifting of the state of emergency and the abrogation of laws and regulations which oppressed the black majority.

He said normal sports could not exist in an abnormal society. Therefore, the elimination of apartheid was a prerequisite for re-establishing sports contacts between South Africa and the rest of the world.

He appealed to all States to adhere to the International Convention, thus uniting in the ongoing efforts to totally isolate apartheid in sports and thereby sending an unambiguous message to Pretoria that real changes were needed in South Africa. A society based on democratic principles recognized by the United Nations would be necessary before South Africa was admitted to international sporting events.

THE CENTRE'S TRAVELLING EXHIBIT ON
APARTHEID IS PRESENTED IN PARIS

To observe the International Day against Racial Discrimination on 21 March 1990, the United Nations Information Centre in Paris, France presented in the building of UNESCO the travelling exhibit prepared by the Centre against Apartheid and Department of Public Information.

Mr. Podha, Director of the UNIC, Paris, while opening the exhibition recalled the events that happened at Sharpeville, thirty years ago this day.

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Addressing the solemn gathering which included Ambassadors of various groups, namely the Chairman of European Group, the Chairman of Arab group and many from African countries, Mr. Fodha renewed the international community's efforts against apartheid based on the numerous resolutions of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the various specialized agencies. The most significant recent action was the adoption by consensus of a Declaration on South Africa by the sixteenth special session of the General Assembly in December last. In the Declaration, the General Assembly declared that "a conjuncture of circumstances exists, which, if there is a demonstrable readiness on the part of the South African régime to engage in negotiations genuinely and seriously, ... to end apartheid through negotiations."

Others who spoke included Mr. Modoux who read a message from Mr. Federico Mayor, the Director-General of UNESCO and the Chairman of the Arab Group, Ambassador of Qatar.

This year the International Day against Racial Discrimination also coincided with the accession of Namibia to independence after more than two decades of struggle.

2. ACTION BY GOVERNMENTS

SWEDEN NOT TO LIFT SANCTIONS

Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden declared at a press conference in Stockholm on 13 March 1990 that Sweden would not lift its sanctions against Pretoria until there were free and fair elections.

The announcement was made in the presence of Nelson Mandela, the leader of the African National Congress (ANC), who was on a visit to Sweden to meet with

Mr. Oliver Tambo, the President of the ANC who is recuperating from a stroke he suffered last year.

In a welcome message to Mr. Mandela, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson assured him of Sweden's "support for justice and liberty in South Africa."

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: NO LIFTING OF SANCTIONS YET

Replying to questions of the Green and SPD spokespersons, Mrs. Eid and Mr. Verheugen, respectively German Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Schafer (Llib) said that the lifting of sanctions should be judged in the context of further measures by South Africa. The Liberal FDP spokesman stated that lifting of current sanctions could only be considered once a dialogue between all relevant parties in South Africa had achieved results.

He also confirmed that the European Community's sanctions have contributed to the new positions of the South African government.

The spokesman of the Christian Democratic Party in Parliament wanted that a relaxation of the sanctions may be considered in the light of further developments in South Africa. The Green and the SPD parties favoured continued sanctions under the current situation.

NEW ZEALAND MAINTAINS SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

The New Zealand Prime Minister Right Honourable Geoffrey Palmer speaking on the occasion of Namibia's independence announced that sanctions against South Africa would remain in place.

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The above decision of the New Zealand Government was transmitted by H.E. Dame Ann Hercus, the Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations in a letter addressed to Mr. S. Mousouris, Assistant Secretary-General, Centre against Apartheid and dated 7 March 1990.

In his statement the Prime Minister welcomed Namibia into the International community and particularly into the Commonwealth.

Effective 21 March 1990 sanctions against Namibia would be lifted while those involving South Africa would remain in place, the statement said.

U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES BAKER VISITS SOUTH AFRICA, MEETS DE KLERK AND ANC OFFICIALS

The United States Secretary of State James A. Baker III met President Frederik W. de Klerk on 22 March 1990 to become the first American, of such rank to visit South Africa in 12 years.

The U.S. Secretary of State who was in southern Africa in connection with Namibia's Independence on 21 March paid a two-day visit to South Africa on 22-23 March 1990. During his visit he met Mr. de Klerk, Mr. Roelof Botha, the Foreign Minister of South Africa and a group of black opposition leaders among whom were Mr. Govan Mbeki, Mr. Raymond Mhlaba and Mr. Andrew Mhangeni.

Mr. Baker had met Nelson Mandela in Windhoek, Namibia. Mr. Mandela had declined to meet Mr. Baker in South Africa on the grounds that it was too early to end Pretoria's diplomatic isolation.

According to a senior U.S. official, Mr. Baker had come away from his talks with Mr. de Klerk and earlier with a group of

black opposition leaders with "the strong impression that both sides are totally serious and committed" to peaceful negotiations for an end to the country's apartheid system, which denies political rights to the black majority.

After his meeting with Mr. de Klerk, Mr. Baker repeated what he said the South African President had told him in private, namely that "we are engaged here in South Africa in an irreversible process and we will follow it to its logical conclusion."

Mr. Baker is the first Secretary of State to visit South Africa since Mr. Cyrus Vance's visit in 1978. Mr. Baker's presence in South Africa highlighted the change in South Africa's international standing in the wake of Mr. de Klerk's decision last month to legalize all anti-apartheid organizations, release African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela from prison and offer to begin negotiations with black leaders for a new constitution.

Commenting over Mr. Baker meeting with Mr. de Klerk in South Africa, Mr. Govan Mbeki, a senior official of the African National Congress (ANC) said, "We are not happy that he (Mr. Baker) has come here to consult with the South African Government Such a move would only ease pressures on Mr. de Klerk before he has made any real changes in the system of apartheid."

Mr. Mbeki then went on to urge Mr. Baker, the American Government and the American people that they "should continue to impose the pressures which they have been on the South African Government and not relax them at all until such times that positions will have been made clear."

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UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE SEES NEED
OF AID TO OPPONENTS OF APARTHEID

Secretary of State James A. Baker 3rd told reporters in Windhoek, Namibia, on 19 March 1990 that the United States would like to use the National Endowment for Democracy to channel political and electoral advice to the African National Congress (ANC) and other anti-apartheid groups in South Africa as it did in helping solidarity in Poland and the opposition parties in Nicaragua.

Mr. Baker was asked for his reaction to an appeal by TransAfrica, a coalition of prominent black Americans, for the United States to give money directly to the African National Congress so that it could develop more of a political structure, capable of one day contesting an election.

The United States Administration officials, however, have been uncomfortable about the idea of giving money directly to any particular party in the South African conflict.

"I think it is important that we do what we can to encourage democracy, non-racial democracy, in South Africa," Mr. Baker said. "That means, ... our assistance going the way it did in Nicaragua ... where it went to the National Endowment for Democracy."

The National Endowment for Democracy is a private foundation chartered and financed by the U.S. Congress. Its purpose is to promote democratic institutions and values abroad, usually by funneling aid to such things as voter registration drives and election observers. The foundation's charter prohibits it from directly financing the campaign of any particular political party.

SAINT LUCIA ACCEDES TO CONVENTION ON
ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Saint Lucia has acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Its instrument of accession was received by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs on 14 February 1990.

The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 1965 and came into force on 4 January 1969. Under the Convention, States parties condemn racial discrimination and undertake a policy of eliminating it without delay and promoting understanding among races. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, established under the Convention, oversees its implementation.

As of 14 February, 129 States had now expressed consent to be bound by the Convention.

SUDAN RATIFIES CONVENTION AGAINST
APARTHEID IN SPORTS

The Sudan has ratified the International Convention against Apartheid in Sports. Its instrument of ratification was received by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs on 23 February.

Under the provisions of the Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly on 10 December 1985, States parties should not permit sports contact with a country practising apartheid and should take appropriate action to ensure that their sports bodies, teams and individual sportsmen do not have such contact. Also, States parties should take appropriate action against their sports bodies, teams and individual sportsmen that participate in sports activities in a country practising apartheid or with teams representing a country practising

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apartheid. Among other things, parties to the Convention should prohibit entry into their countries of teams or individual sportsmen participating or who have participated in sports competitions in South Africa.

In accordance with the Convention, which entered into force on 3 April 1988, a Commission against Apartheid in Sports was established, consisting of "15 members of high moral character and committed to the struggle against apartheid". The Commission reports annually to the General Assembly and makes recommendations based on examination of reports and information received from States parties.

As of 23 February 1990, the following 46 States had either ratified, acceded to or approved the Convention: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Byelorussia, Czechoslovakia, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Sudan, Syria, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, USSR, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. ACTION BY INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

GROUP MONITORING SUPPLY OF OIL PRODUCTS TO SOUTH AFRICA EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH ITS PEOPLE ON INTERNATIONAL DAY TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Ms. Nabeela Al-Mulla (Kuwait), Acting Chairman of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa, in a statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of

Racial Discrimination, 21 March, expressed solidarity with the people of South Africa. The statement among others noted:

... "Sanctions, including the oil embargo, have played a major role in bringing about the constellation of factors which have forced Pretoria to seek negotiated and peaceful changes in the region. The importance of the oil embargo derives from the basic fact that oil is the only strategic commodity in which South Africa is not self-sufficient. An effective embargo by oil-exporting, oil-shipping, as well as oil-handling, States should cut the apartheid régime off from its lifeline.

"In view of the importance of this sanctions measure, the Intergovernmental Group shall continue its monitoring activities. There shall be no relaxation of efforts to enforce the oil embargo until a free, democratic and non-racial system, based on one man one vote, has been achieved."

CONTINUATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN SANCTIONS URGED BY FRONT-LINE STATES

The leaders of the six front-line States in an appeal issued on 28 February 1990 after holding a meeting with Mr. Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, asked other nations to maintain economic sanctions against South Africa at least until the United Nations considered whether President F.W. de Klerk's reforms were sufficiently "irreversible" to warrant lifting the punitive measures.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia speaking at a news Conference on the occasion specially mentioned the United States when he said that he was "hoping and praying that the Congress of the U.S.A. will not think of lifting sanctions until

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the General Assembly (of the United Nations) has met and reexamined the whole situation." The United Nations is expected to undertake the review in July '90 when the Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar is required to submit a report on developments in South Africa". The leaders of the front-line States made their appeal after meeting with Nelson Mandela.

According to President Kaunda, Mr. Mandela who addressed a joint meeting of both the front-line leaders and a delegation from the 49-nation Commonwealth group advocated the continuation of the sanctions.

The six front-line States whose leaders met with Nelson Mandela were Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

OAU EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA

On the occasion of the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March 1990, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) issued the following statement in which among others it was noted:

... "According to the United Nations, 21 March is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which this year, coincides with the Independence of Namibia. While we rejoice over this latest event, the OAU would like, as in previous years, to reiterate its appeal to the International Community to maintain pressure on South Africa until the pillars of the Apartheid system crumble completely and to urgently render financial and material assistance to the mass democratic movements, especially, the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress, to enable them begin the process of institutional building and the resettlement of returnees."

In this connection, the OAU wishes to reaffirm its total solidarity with the support for the people of South Africa as they steadfastly march towards a non-racial and democratic state.

OAU AGREES TO PRETORIA CONTACTS

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) has agreed to begin direct contacts with the South African Government in an effort to find a peaceful end to apartheid.

The decision of 19 March 1990 was made by leaders of 13 nations in the 51-member organization who met in the Zambian Capital, Lusaka. The 13 make up a special committee of the OAU on southern Africa.

The organization's move was in response to a recommendation by the African National Congress (ANC) to set up a group to maintain contact with all parties to the South African political dispute.

The group, to be based in Lusaka, would be the first direct communication channel between the OAU and the white Government in Pretoria. Until now, the OAU has shunned contact with South Africa over apartheid.

The meeting also took note of political reforms introduced in South Africa but said more needed to be done to build a climate for full negotiations leading to democracy.

4. ACTION BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED STATES' SECRETARY OF STATE URGED TO AID AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The participants at a meeting on 12 February 1990 organized by the TransAfrica, a lobbying group for black African interests, urged the secretary of State

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James A. Baker III to provide up to \$20 million to the African National Congress to help it become a fully functioning South African political party. The precedent for such aid was found in the United States' funding of the solidarity movement in Poland and the opposition parties in Nicaragua.

Mr. Randell Robinson, the Executive Director of TransAfrica when asked about Secretary Baker's views about sanctions said that Baker "by and large agreed with our position" on keeping sanctions voted against South Africa in 1986 "until the government (of South Africa) takes additional steps to dismantle the apartheid system."

Other participants in the meeting were TransAfrica chairman Richard Hatcher; National Rainbow Coalition leader Jesse Jackson; Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women; Sylvia Hill, director of the Southern Africa Support Project; Coretta Scott King, president of the King Center for Non-Violent Social Change; Joseph Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Bill Pollard representing the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

5. ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENTS

AWEPAW WELCOMES MANDELA'S RELEASE, FURTHER STEPS NEEDED

In a statement on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Association of West European Parliamentarians for Action against Apartheid (AWEPAW) President Jan Nico Scholten, welcomed the release of Nelson Mandela and other measures, as positive steps to create a suitable climate for fruitful negotiations on the abolition of apartheid.

The statement appeared in the January/February 1990 issue of AWEPAW News

Bulletin added that it was still necessary that the South African government take some further steps in accordance with the demands, repeatedly put forward by both the South African opposition and by the International community, like the European Community in its 1985 and 1986 statements and the General Assembly of the United Nations in its unanimously adopted resolution of 14 December 1989.

AWEPAW agreed with Mr. Mandela's call on the International community to continue the campaign to isolate the apartheid régime because as the statement said, "by lifting sanctions now we would run the risk of aborting the process towards the complete eradication of apartheid".

The statement ended by the AWEPAW appealing to all countries, in particular, the European Community and its member States, to maintain their current economic and other sanctions against South Africa, as an instrument of pressure in further stimulating the process towards profound and irreversible change in South Africa.

6. NEWS IN BRIEF

WORLD LEADERS MEET SOUTH AFRICAN PRESIDENT

President F.W. de Klerk used the celebration of Namibian Independence to engage in extensive and varied International diplomacy that any South African leader has undertaken since apartheid was established 42 years ago.

Mr. de Klerk had come to Windhoek, Namibia officially to surrender South Africa's stewardship over Namibia.

While in Namibia, Mr. de Klerk had discussions with the Presidents of Angola, Egypt, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Yugoslavia and Zambia, and the Prime Minister of Cape Verde. Excepting the

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leaders of Mozambique and Zambia whom he had met earlier, others he met for the first time.

He also held first meetings with the foreign ministers of Finland, Ireland, Soviet Union, Spain and Sweden as well as other officials from France, Italy and Norway.

Mr. de Klerk also held an hour-long meeting with Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which had supervised Namibia's transition to independence. On his return to South Africa, Mr. de Klerk met with Mr. James A. Baker III the U.S. Secretary of State.

Speaking to newsmen at the Windhoek airport, Mr. de Klerk expressed the view that South Africa was breaking out of its isolation in the world because he had undertaken the gradual dismantling of apartheid.

DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE AGAINST APARTHEID
ADDRESS' UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH WESTERN
LOUISIANA

Mr. Sofianos Mousouris, Director of the Centre against Apartheid, addressed a meeting at the University of South Western Louisiana organized on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The meeting was attended by more than 900 people composed of citizens of Lafayette, Louisiana and students and faculty of the university. The three-hour programme was entitled "Eyes Wide Open and Colour Blind". Mr. Mousouris spoke about the focus of United Nations on human rights, racial discrimination and apartheid. The meeting was also addressed by State Senator Cleo Field of Louisiana.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)
BRIEFED ON UNITED NATIONS ACTION AGAINST
APARTHEID

In connection with the observance of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the United Nations Headquarters, Mr. Abdennour Abrous, Chief of Branch for Publicity, Assistance and Promotion of International Action in the Centre against Apartheid, addressed representatives of 150 national and international non-governmental organizations on United Nations Action against Apartheid and the prospects for a negotiated settlement of the conflict in South Africa. The briefing was organized by the Department of Public Information as part of a series of briefings on a number of important issues on the international agenda.

Following the meeting, the NGO/DPI Executive Board decided to contribute \$1,000 to six United Nations Programmes for Assistance to Southern Africa.

UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION
ENCOURAGED BY SIGNS OF REAL CHANGE

A U.S. Congressional delegation that visited South Africa on 3-4 March 1990 said in a statement that it had found "a dynamic and a momentum toward democracy that had never before existed," and was "very encouraged" about prospects for a peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy.

Impressed by both parties' desire for peace the delegation observed that although significant obstacles to a negotiated settlement remain and the basic structures of the apartheid system - which denies majority of the people of South Africa their political rights - were still in place, "a rare window of opportunity" exists for creation of a non-racial democracy guaranteeing equal treatment,

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individual rights and economic opportunity for all.

The statement was significant because the nine-member delegation, included some of white South Africa's most vociferous Congressional critics and sponsors of strong economic sanctions legislation against South Africa over the past five years.

Among its members were Representative William H. Gray III (D-Pa.), House majority whip and a sponsor of the House version of the 1986 Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act; Representative Ronald V. Dellums (D-Calif.), sponsor of a more comprehensive sanctions bill; Representative Howard Wolpe (D-Mich.), Chairman of the House Africa Sub-Committee, and Representative Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.), its former-Chairman.

The other members of the delegation, which included two Republicans, were Representatives Michael A. Andrews (D-Tex.), Beverly B. Byron (D-Md.), Dean A. Gallo (R-N.J.), Steny H. Hoyer (D-Md.) and Jim McGreey (R-La.).

As the statement by the Congressional delegation did not suggest lifting or modifying the United States' sanctions against South Africa, the delegation appeared to back the policy of continuing to keep South Africa under pressure and isolated until it became clearer that changes were irreversible.

**NBC NIGHTLY NEWS DISCLOSES ISRAELI
COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA**

The National Broadcasting Corporation of America in its nightly news on 9 March 1990 disclosed that Israel is yet to end its military collaboration with South Africa.

According to NBC's Pentagon correspondent Fred Francis, Israel and South Africa have continued the partnership to develop a nuclear capable ballistic missile for the Pretoria régime. That, despite promises by Israel to the United States to end the almost one billion dollar a year military relationship.

When NBC news first-detailed the missile deal in October 1989 both Israel and South Africa publicly denied the reports. But, according to the correspondent, the Israeli leaders in private have admitted it, telling Secretary of State James A. Baker III that Israel would end the military co-operation within two years.

Prime Minister Shamir, also privately, promised the Congressional Black caucus and "prominent Jewish Congressmen that Israel would end South African ties ... in time.

A two-year timetable is unacceptable to the United States Administration and the Congress and both have pressed Israel to do better. Both suspect the Israeli government hopes the issue would simply fade away as it did when Israel made similar promises in 1987. In fact, the intelligence sources say, according to Mr. Francis, the military trade has increased since 1987.

Based on intelligence sources, the NBC's Pentagon correspondent lists Israel's collaboration with South Africa on:

- the Jerico medium range missile;
- the Ofiteq series of spy satellites;
- the Shavit space launch vehicle;
- an airborne early warning system and a host of other projects.

The Israeli Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Moshe Arad, in a meeting on

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8 March 1990, with the Jewish and black Congressmen asked for more time to end Israel's collaboration with South Africa saying that Israel was "in the midst of phasing down its military ties" but the process was "too costly for Israel to end immediately ..."

According to the newsmen the Congressmen who expected the relationship to end within a very short time span, were not happy with the Israeli stand.

ANC AND SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AGREE TO HOLD TALKS

An announcement to hold talks on 11 April 1990 between the South African Government and the African National Congress was made by President F.W. de Klerk on 16 March 1990.

The goal of the talks would be to discuss obstacles to the negotiations between South African Government and the leaders of the nation's black organizations on a new South African constitution. According to Mr. de Klerk, the new charter would offer political rights to blacks.

The talks would be conducted with Mr. de Klerk leading a team of Government ministers and a delegation from the African National Congress led by Mr. Nelson Mandela. Mr. Mandela had met Mr. de Klerk twice while he was imprisoned. This would be the first time in decades when talks between the two parties at this level would be held.

Among the obstacles obstructing progress towards negotiations are ANC's demands that Pretoria release all the political prisoners, lift the state of emergency, and withdrawal of troops from the townships.

Mr. de Klerk, on his part, would want the ANC to formally renounce the "armed struggle" that the African National Congress has been conducting against the Government since 1960.

The talks scheduled for 11 April 1990, however, were postponed due to the violence in the Natal province, the ANC accusing the South African police for its partisan behaviour against its supporters. These have now been rescheduled to take place on 2-4 May 1990.

7. DELETION FROM THE REGISTER OF SPORTS CONTACTS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Harold Solomon, tennis United States

Courtesy of

News Digest